

166-405

**INCIDENT
IDENTIFICATION
NUMBER**

1008146

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Fish, Wildlife, and Marine Resources
Wildlife Pathology Unit
108 Game Farm Road, Delmar, NY 12054

I-008146
-001



October 29, 1998

Ms. Wendy Pencille
Wildlife Rehabilitator
11207 Ryan Road
Medina, NY 14130

Personal privacy information

RE: Great Horned Owl
(#98-44-17)

Dear Ms. Pencille:

The following is a summary of history and findings for this owl that we spoke about several times on the telephone.

History: [redacted] saw crows mobbing the moribund great horned owl near Zehr's Farmers Market on Route 18, [redacted] Burt, New York. This is an area of orchards. [redacted] was able to pickup the bird (on July 14, 1998) without gloves and bring the trembling bird to you for care, the bird died shortly thereafter. You suspect that [redacted] history is not as precise as it could be because he may be protecting an employer who used the rodenticides.

Findings: An adult, male, great horned owl, weighing 1218 grams. The bird was in fair flesh with the skeletal musculature and internal organs (e.g. heart, liver) appearing extremely anemic. No food was present in the alimentary canal. The fractures or evidence of trauma were present.

The brain and liver were taken for toxicological analysis.

Toxicology (See attached report from the Illinois Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Animal Disease Lab): Three different anticoagulants were found. Warfarin that had heavy usage before Warfarin resistant rats developed in the late 1960s to early 1970's, plus the more recently heavily utilized Brodifacoum and Bromadiolone.

Diagnosis: Death due to blood loss from anticoagulant rodenticides. All three could cause blood loss. It would appear that Warfarin and Bromadiolone were the major factors (higher tissue levels) in this case, but Brodifacoum (present here at a much lower level) is our most important anticoagulant rodenticide killing non-target wildlife.

TSB
1-5-99

Comments: Thank you for sending in this very important case. If any more information on the history can be obtained, I would like to add it to this case report.

Sincerely,

Ward B. Stone

Ward B. Stone
Wildlife Pathologist

Attachment

WBS:rd

cc: K. Converse (NWHRL)

-7 D. Brassard (USEPA)

B. Rattner (Patuxent)

M. Kelly

R. Biss

T. Sinnot

Pesticide Inspector (Region 9)

L. Skinner

V. Palmer

Toxicant Case Binder



Illinois
Department of
Agriculture

NECESSARY
FILE

Bureau of Animal Disease Laboratory

ANIMAL DISEASE LABORATORY
9732 SHATTUC ROAD
CENTRALIA, ILLINOIS 62801

TOXICOLOGY DEPARTMENT REPORT

VETERINARIAN

OWNER

NEW YORK WILDLIFE
108 GAME FARM RD
JELMAR NY 12054

NEW YORK WILDLIFE 98-44-17

ACCESSION
NUMBER: 9900004080

DATE
REPORTED: 10/08/1998

DATE
RECEIVED: 09/21/1998

SPECIMEN
RECEIVED: GREAT HORNED OWL LIVER
TEST
REQUESTED: ANTICOAGULANT SCREEN
RESULTS:
98-44-17

SPECIES: AV-OTHER

Anticoagulant Liver

Warfarin - .73 ppm

Brodifacoum - .03 ppm

Bromadiolone - .77 ppm

All other anticoagulants - None Detected

Please see attached sheet for all anticoagulants included in the anticoagulant screen.

CHEMIST

APPROVED

LABORATORY

SUPERVISOR

[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]
J. D. REYNOLDS